

**REMARKS**

Claims 5-9 are pending in the present application. All other claims have been canceled. Claim 5 is amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 5-9 if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. In response, claim 5 has been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection and all other claims that do not depend from claim 5 have been canceled.

With regard to the § 112 rejection, the Office Action indicates that the phrase "said multicast address is a result of AND operation with a multicast address and an address mask" is unclear as to whether the multicast address is the result of an AND operation with the multicast source address and an address mask or the multicast address is a result of an AND operation with some other multicast address and an address mask. Applicant intends the latter. To be clear, claim 5 is clarified as "said multicast address is a result of AND operation with another multicast address and an address mask."

Applicant believes the claim has been clarified. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant suggests a telephone call with Applicant's representative so that sufficiently clear language can be agreed upon.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this response complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant further submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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